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Poland Accuses U.S. of Wide Subversion Effort

Foreign Press Sees Videotapes Purporting to Show Espionage Activity; U.S. Embassy Silent

By HARRY TRIMBORN, Times Staff Writer

WARSAW—Polish authorities on Thursday accused the United States of conducting a worldwide effort to subvert their country.

In an unprecedented meeting with the foreign press, Polish counterintelligence officers cited what they said was a long list of CIA efforts to recruit Poles as spies in recent months and in past years.

A spokesman at the U.S. Embassy here refused to comment on the charge, saying, "We never discuss such matters in public."

The reporters were shown videotapes said to support the charges of U.S. espionage involving diplomats in Poland. The tapes are being shown on Poland's state-run television network.

Americans Named

Among those identified by the Polish authorities as American intelligence officers who have tried to recruit Polish spies here and elsewhere were Susan McCloud, described as an attache at the U.S. Embassy in Switzerland; Michael Anderson and Peter Burke, said to be second secretaries at the embassy here; and Leslie Sternberg, once a third secretary at the embassy here.

The Poles identified others as Michael McBride, a first secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Sweden; Michael Marx, in West Germany; Robert White, in Mexico; Robert Malsz, in Japan; Robert Stone, in Nepal; Stephen Kostic and Judith Hoopes, who served in South Vietnam, and Edward James Smith, in Poland.

Col. Zbigniew Wislocki, who was identified as a specialist in counterintelligence against American espionage, said at the press conference.

"U.S. intelligence services have been instrumental in the establishment of anti-state groups in Poland by providing them with communications facilities, printing equipment and money."

One of the videotapes showed a person identified as a member of the dissident Committee for Social Self-Defense (KOR) passing a document to a man identified as Anderson, said to be on the staff of the U.S. Embassy here.

KOR was a group with considerable influence on the now-suspended independent Solidarity trade union movement. According to the narrative, the passed document dealt with alleged human rights violations in Poland that were to be presented to a review conference of the 1975 Helsinki Accords on Human Rights.

The United States and other Western nations have charged that the imposition of martial law is a violation of the Helsinki Accords.

Another of the tapes dealing with alleged U.S. spying showed the arrest of Sternberg in March, 1981. Her car was stopped by security agents here and, according to the narrative and an account published in Trybuna Ludu, the official newspaper of the Communist Party Central Committee, it contained illegal literature of the KPN, or Confederation for an Independent Poland.

The KPN, a nationalist, anti-communist group, was suppressed by the authorities before the imposition of martial law. Its leader, Leszek Moczulski, is being held for trial on charges of taking part in anti-state activities.

Wislocki said that American diplomats had met with Moczulski before his arrest.

Sternberg was accused of supplying the KPN with material and facilities for printing its literature in exchange for KPN's help in compiling the names and addresses of security personnel and political leaders. Material allegedly confiscated from her car was on display at the press conference.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman acknowledged that Sternberg had been at the embassy and had been reassigned immediately after the incident.

Another of the tapes showed the arrest of Burke, who was charged with passing espionage instructions to a Pole identified as Zemon Celegrat, now serving 23 years in prison. Celegrat was said to have been recruited into the U.S. espionage service while serving in the Polish contingent of the International Control Commission in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Wislocki indicated that the Polish contingent had been a prime recruiting target for the CIA.